

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the foregoing, claim 1 has been amended. Claims 3 and 23 have been cancelled. Claims 10-21 have been withdrawn. Claims 1, 2 and 4-9 are pending and under consideration.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 112

Claim 23 was rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claim 23 has been cancelled. Withdrawal of the foregoing rejection is requested.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 103

Claims 1-9 and 23 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Orszulik (WO 01/59196) hereinafter "Orszulik") in view of Oh et al. (US 6,116,061) (hereinafter "Oh").

Claims 1-9 and 23

Amended claim 1 recites: "...pumping water in the rotary tub to outside of the rotary tub until the inertial rotation of the rotary tub terminates." Support for this amendment may be found in at least original claim 3.

The Office Action relies on Orszulik to show this feature of claim 1. However, it is respectfully submitted that amended claim 1 recites a process including spraying and feeding water into the rotary tub during a time period when the rotary tub is inertially rotating and **at the same time** pumping the water fed in the rotary tub to outside of the rotary tub. By contrast, Orszulik only discusses spraying in rinse water as the rotating drum rotates at a first rotational speed and the rotating the rotating drum at a second rotational speed **and then draining**.

Accordingly, it is respectfully, submitted that claim 1 patentably distinguishes over Orszulik because Orszulik does not discuss the technical features of 1) spraying and feeding water into the rotary tub during a time period when the rotary tub is **inertially rotating** and 2) **at the same time** pumping the water fed in the rotary tub to outside of the rotary tub. Further these deficiencies in Orszulik are not cured by Oh.

This technical feature of claim 1 enables laundry to be uniformly soaked with the water within a short time and improves rinsing performance while further increasing overall efficiency of the washing machine.

Claims 3 and 23 have been cancelled. Claims 3-9 depend on claim 1 and are therefore believed to be allowable for at least the foregoing reasons.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejection is requested.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: April 11, 2008

By: Gregory W. Harper
Gregory W. Harper
Registration No. 55,248

1201 New York Avenue, NW, 7th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501